

MINUTES: Centerville Township Windmill Ordinance Committee, May 8, 2006

Present: Molly Hyde, Mark Zemanek, Richard Light, Dale Pleva, Carolyn Weed, Travis Nelson, Richard Kobetz, Gary Cook, David Wurm, Joseph Czerniak

The first order of business of the new committee was to choose a chairperson and a secretary. Mark Zemanek will serve as chairman and Molly Hyde will act as secretary. Meeting dates will be determined as needed and posted accordingly.

There was general discussion in reference to commercial wind within our current township ordinance as a special use. Questions exist as to commercial vs. industrial and how that applies. Should we request a moratorium or change our current ordinance wording while we research and formulate a new ordinance? What guidance does this committee need to write an ordinance? The process in writing an ordinance would be for us to conduct research, write a proposed ordinance, submit it to Centerville planning, where if approved it is sent to the county planning board for an advisory review, then to the Centerville Twp. board who then approve or disapprove it as a township ordinance.

Discussion continued on gathering more information. We will look at current ordinances to see how different projects are defined, i.e. height, size, noise, output. We will look at ordinances that exist within the county. Ordinances from Otsego County, and Shawano County, WI were also mentioned. Ms. Hyde will get info from Leland and Leelanau twps. If wind turbines are to be allowed, what will the approval process entail - environmental impact statements, application requirements, etc? Does the township hire their own experts and at whose expense?

Liability from lawsuits against this committee was also questioned. It should fall under the liability of the township board. Mr. Czerniak will check this out.

Information fact finding for the township was discussed. Possibly surveys, if we used this method how are questions worded so that we know residents understand exactly what the questions are? We need to consider the township plan. We need to use information to make the best decision to protect the health and safety of residents, for example, health factors, noise, density, vibration, flicker effect, ice throw. What are our responsibilities? Our goal would be to protect the township for all residents – not necessarily just one individual. Should we create a district for wind turbines?

Other information to be gathered: Mr. Zemanak will speak with the National Park Service. Mr. Cook will speak with Cherryland Electric to gain information on the size of lines, towers and substations required for transporting the electricity.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 15, 2006 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Hyde

